

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CG-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-04 EPA-01 INR-05 IO-10 L-02

NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02

ACDA-05 AEC-05 AGR-05 DOTE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01 INT-05

JUSE-00 OMB-01 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /103 W

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R 152357Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8600

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 4383

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS EFIS CS

SUBJECT: LOS: PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON TUNA FISHING WITHIN
200 MILE LIMIT

REF: SAN JOSE 3397, STATE 193106

1. A BILL HAS BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THE COSTA RICAN LEGISLATURE WHICH ASSERTS COSTA RICAN JURISDICTION OVER THE 200 MILE PATRIMONIAL SEA FOR THE PURPOSE OF LICENSING ALL FOREIGN BOATS ENGAGED IN TUNA FISHING WITHIN THAT AREA. THE BILL INSTITUTES VARIOUS FEES FOR SUCH LICENSING AND FINES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY. IT SEEMS TO BE PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO STIMULATE THE NATIONAL CANNING INDUSTRY, BY PROVIDING CERTAIN INCENTIVES FOR OFFLOADING TUNA IN COSTA RICA. IT ALSO AIMS AT INSURING AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF TUNA TO COSTA RICA AND CENTRAL AMERICA. THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED LAW IS BEING POUCHED SEPARATELY VIA TRANSMITTAL SLIP TO ARE/CEN/CR.

2. COMMENT: WHILE IT APPEARS THAT THE FISHERIES SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SUPPORTS THE GENERAL THRUST OF
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THE BILL, THE PROPOSED LAW HAS TWO STRIKES AGAINST IT.

FIRST OF ALL IT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED BY THE SOCIALIST
DEPUTY ARNOLDO DERRETO, WHO HAS LITTLE SUPPORT IN THE
ASSEMBLY, AND NOT BY THE GOVERNMENT PARTY. SECONDLY,
FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO HAS ALREADY DERAILED ONE SUCH
ATTEMPT WHICH WAS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING A 200 MILE
TERRITORIAL SEA, ARGUING THAT IT WOULD INTERFERE WITH
ONGOING LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS, (SEE REFTTEL).
HOPEFULLY, HE WILL TAKE SIMILAR ACTION
WITH REGARD TO THIS BILL SHOULD IT PROVE NECESSARY.
ACCORDING TO A SOURCE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THIS
IS ONE OF FOUR OR FIVE TOPICS THAT MINISTRY OFFICERS
WANT TO TAKE UP WITH FACIO TO GET THIS GUIDANCE NOW
THAT HE IS BACK IN THE COUNTRY.
LANE

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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